

## Wyoming County

Created on April 4, 1842, from part of Luzerne County and named for the Wyoming Valley. "Wyoming" is derived from an Indian word meaning "extensive meadows." Tunkhannock, the county seat was incorporated as a borough on August 8, 1841, and was named for Tunkhannock Creek. The creek's name means "small stream."

Wyoming shares with its mother county, Luzerne, the Wyoming Valley tradition of the Connecticut claims, which began in 1754, and the Yankee-Pennamite wars. The Trenton Decree (1782), its acceptance by Connecticut (1786), and the land claimants' compensation statute (1807) ended the dispute. Although not part of the geologically defined Wyoming Valley, which is in Luzerne County, Wyoming it is one of four counties regarded as making up the historic Wyoming Valley. Connecticut Yankees made up a large percentage of the early settlers. The area experienced the settler exodus known as the Great Runaway following the Wyoming Massacre (a Tory and Indian victory) in 1778. Lacking significant coal beds, the county had primarily a lumber economy until 1900, which gave rise to a leather tanning industry using hemlock bark. Leather manufacture continued after the stands of hemlock were gone. The North Branch Canal passed through the area, and Tunkhannock was on the Lehigh Valley and Nicholson on the D. L. & W. Railroads. Grain and dairy farming gradually increased, and about 1900 dairying replaced lumber as the major product. Also, quarrying, especially of Pennsylvania bluestone, has been profitable. Tanneries used cattle hides and hemlock. The Cyrus Avery Foundry made farm equipment. The absorbent papers unit of Procter and Gamble, established at Mehoopany in 1966, is the county's biggest employer. Presently, lumber and wood products, women's apparels, and shoes are other products of this country. Farms cover 29 percent of the land, and dairy products dominate agricultural production.

WYOMING COUNTY - 8th Class

Formed on April 4, 1842 from part of Luzerne County

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Factoryville	Nov. 12, 1883	S 1798	Clinton Township
Laceyville	Dec. 9, 1902	S 1766	Braintrim Township
Meshoppen	Aug. 1879	S 1775	Meshoppen Township
Nicholson	Aug. 1875		Nicholson Township
Tunkhannock	Aug. 8, 1841	S 1790	Tunkhannock Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Braintrim	1778	1776	
Clinton	1843	1798	Tunkhannock, Falls and Nicholson Townships
Eaton	1818	1773	Tunkhannock Township
Exeter	Nov. 28, 1772	1795	
Falls	1824	1773	Tunkhannock Township
Forkston	1844	1795	Windham Township
Lemon	1847	1800	Nicholson and Braintrim Townships
Mehoopany	1844	1775	Windham Township
Meshoppen	1854	1775	Braintrim and Washington Twps.
Monroe	1831 <sup>1</sup> 1832 <sup>2</sup>	1812	Northmoreland Township
Nicholson	1843	1760	Tunkhannock and Abington Townships
North Branch	1856	1800	Forkston Township
Northmoreland	Before 1842	1800	
Noxen	Feb. 21, 1895		Monroe Township
Overfield	Nov. 26, 1859	1787	Falls Township
Tunkhannock	Dec. 20, 1775	1771	
Washington	1831 <sup>1</sup> Aug. 9, 1832 <sup>2</sup>	1787	Braintrim and Tunkhannock Townships
Windham		1787	

<sup>1</sup> Godcharles

<sup>2</sup> History of Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties, Pennsylvania (New York: W. W. Munsell and Company, 1880).